

# Tyson-Holyfield Thomas-Hill

Fern's View from the Side Lines

PAGE 10

# Passaic Peer Leaders Prosper

YES PAGE 5



# CITY NEWS

THE NEW JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

# Kevin Hooks is Strictly Business

City Life PAGE 7

# Prince of Darkness Returns Big Daddy Kane

YES PAGE 5

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## BRIEFS

**■ SMOKE BUSTERS:** Newark Mayor Sharpe James announced his support for the 1991 "Great American Smokeout Day" taking place on November 21. In response, the Mayor has announced a plan to make all municipal buildings in Newark smoke-free by next year. — NEWARK

**■ PAYMENTS OVERDUE:** A new service company designed to track down parents who have not paid their child support has been introduced by Patricia A. Flynn and Raymond E. Trainer. For a fee of \$35, Child Support Services will seek out payment for the \$24 billion of uncollected child support. For more information call 609-585-1756 or 1-800-394-CARE. — TRENTON

**■ SEASONED STAMPS:** The United States Postal Service has issued six new stamps for the holiday season. The designs feature one traditional Christmas stamp and five contemporary ones. They will be available in panes of 50 and booklets of 20. — PLAINFIELD

**■ READIN' WRITIN' AND BUSTED BOILERS:** Commissioner of Education Dr. John Ellis announced the need for significant upgrades in the state's school buildings. Ellis said that there is a "bona fide emergency" in the schools and it cannot be ignored any more. Problems include outdated boilers, deferred maintenance, leaky roofs, and the demand for new technology. — TRENTON

## Cosby hosts Newark's tribute to the Divine One

NEWARK — Bill Cosby was the special guest host at the November 15 concert for the first Vaughan Jazz Festival in Newark.



Bill Cosby  
The Gala Night of Singing and Swinging at Newark Symphony Hall starred Joe Williams and the Count Basie Orchestra under the direction of Frank Foster, Abbey Lincoln, Roy Hargrove, and Rachelle Ferrell.

Bill Cosby is a lifelong jazz devotee who, without benefit of formal instruction and apparently on a whim, can outdistance even the musicianship of Quincy Jones. Quincy, in a moment of self-effacement, said on the subject: "Bill Cosby knows his music. He loves it and he knows how to make some music. He's brilliant at it. It used to take me twenty or thirty score pages to write down all of the stuff he can get going 'just by kickin' a leg sideways, stompin' a foot or somethin', jumpin' up and stompin' both feet, elbowin' the air to get brass accents, makin'"

(continued on page 10)

# The real deal — Jobless rate higher than numbers show

NEW YORK — It does not take a genius to know that the country is in a recession and jobs are hard to find as the proverbial needle in a haystack. But a comparison of the reported unemployment rate and the actual number of Americans out of work shows that government officials like President Bush have been looking at the situation through rose colored glasses.

Presently, the Labor Department reports that the unemployment rate is at 6.7 percent, meaning that 8.4 million people are out of work. But those numbers leave out some very large and significant members of society.

The "discouraged workers" are largely represented in this scale as being number 1.1 million people. These people are those who are able to work but are discouraged by pur-

sue work. They are not even considered in the Labor Department's figures and their number rose 100,000 in the third quarter of the year.

Also not included in the jobless rate are the part-time workers who would rather work full-time but cannot find full-time employment. They number 6.4 million people.

One of the most significant groups of unemployed are the teenagers, who are another capable group but who are edged out of the employment game. Particularly hurt in this group are minorities, especially blacks, who as a whole have always had a higher unemployment rate than whites. Teens in total have an 18 percent unemployment rate and the rate for black teens reaches 38 percent and even higher in some other urban communities. The reported 38 percent more than doubles

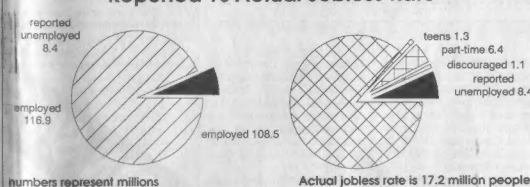
that of white youth.

Another issue not touched upon is the finality of so many jobs. A large amount of white color jobs held by people near retirement age will not be re-staffed in the near

future. The economic recovery is too slow to level off the unemployment rate and as businesses continue to trim to the bare necessities, it seems unlikely that a lot of the jobs eliminated will be reinstated.

Even though President Bush maintains that the recession is over, it is pretty hard to convince the thousands of people in each state who are losing their jobs each day.

## Reported vs Actual Jobless Rate



## Newark Councilman fed up with auto theft tragedies

NEWARK — Newark's West Ward Councilman Ronald L. Rice says that he is "fed up with the human tragedies that have to be borne almost daily in Newark because of the perverse attitude toward other human beings that is held by car thieves."

Rice indicated that he will call

for a meeting of elected officials, clergy, Board of Education members, and school administrators to address the issue.

He said, "I respect the fact that we have homeless families and households where father figures are missing; we have people who are struggling to get along on fixed or

low incomes and can't shake ends meet; that all of the playgrounds aren't open and kids don't have a decent place where they can safely play. I respect the fact that opportunities that should be available are not. However, none of these prob-

(continued on page 3)

## Two politicians meet

South Africa's number one politician, Nelson Mandela (L) played host to the American leader of the Democratic Party, Ronald H. Brown, during Brown's August visit to South Africa. Brown is the first African American to be elected chairman of the Democratic Party in its almost 200-year history.



## Saying YES to education during American Education Week

As part of the 70th observance of American Education Week, (AEW) YES Communications, Inc. will feature the official unveiling of YES — The Magazine for the New Generation, on November 21.

The theme for AEW, which takes place from November 17-23, is "Schools and Communities: Partners for a Strong America."

Through several activities, AEW sponsored by the National Educa-

tion Association (NEA) continues to seek support for a national effort to raise public awareness of the importance of education.

Fitting right into that scheme is YES Magazine, a national publication for and about youth, showing them the successes their peers are having and encouraging them to do the same.

Its focus runs the gamut from academics, business, health, and

anything else affecting and interesting young people.

The timing of the YES kick off illustrates the company's in depth commitment to the positive elements of the teenage years leading to adulthood.

During the founding days of AEW in 1919, representatives of the NEA joined with members of the American Legion to do something about the large numbers of illiterate and physically unfit Americans. Their efforts resulted in AEW where the NEA approved a resolution stating that one week from each

(continued on page 6)

## A possible light at the end of Plainfield's budget tunnel

by Denise Germain

PLAINFIELD — There seems to be a glimmer of light at the end of the budget process for the Plainfield City Council, after an extremely heated budget session last Thursday evening.

The Council along with its Citizens Budget Advisory Committee met with the intention of going through the proposed \$37.1 million budget line by line, in order to effectively cut the excess, but based upon a consensus of the councilmembers, most felt that approach wouldn't get the Council anywhere, so general cuts were discussed.

Several members of the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee expressed their opinions of the process thus far, with the majority making the point that they had put a lot of time and effort into going through the budget line by line, and the Council didn't seem to consider their recommendations seriously.

Each councilmember introduced an amount they felt should be considered, the majority felt between \$1.2 million and \$2.3 mil-

lion, but the consensus was to ask the administration to figure out the impact on the city based upon a cut of \$1.8 million.

When asked what she thought the administration would pay about a \$1.8 million cut, Council President Elizabeth Urquhart stated that she felt "the administration will send it back, they want specific cuts, based upon what the auditors said to me earlier." Councilwoman Faheemah El-Amin, who's cuts were omitted from a report given to the auditors last Monday, said that she will stick to her cuts of \$2 million which were specifically outlined per department.

After the initial 2 hour session, Councilmen El Robinson and Jon Bramnick left for the evening but three remaining councilmembers, President Urquhart, Helen Miller, and Mrs. El-Amin stayed to discuss the budget line by line with some of the Budget Advisory Committee members.

The \$1.8 million recommendation will go to the administration and subsequent cuts will go to the auditors to find out the impact.

## Sullivan plan urges African relief



Rev. Leon H. Sullivan (2nd from R) presides over the First United Nations Day for Africa. He is flanked by (L-R) Issa Ben Yacine Diallo, Javier Perez de Cuellar, and Bettino Craxi of Italy.

NEW YORK (CNS) — In a dramatic and electrifying speech that received a thunderous ovation at the United Nations, Reverend Dr. Leon H. Sullivan announced plans for an unprecedented "new partnership" of support of debt relief for sub-

## Walk for the homeless

PLAINFIELD — The Alma

McLeod Foundation Inc., is encouraging area residents to take a hike for the homeless as part of their annual Thanksgiving Walk.

As part of its never ending endeavors to help the homeless as well as promote hope and unity in the community, the organization is asking people to sponsor walkers in order to raise money to help those who are less fortunate particularly during the approaching holiday season.

The walk will take place

Saturday November 23 from approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hub Stein Field Track on Randolph Road in Plainfield.

In order to help as many people as possible, the foundation even encourages children to participate in the 50 mile walk.

For more information call 1-800-DIAL LIFE or 201-755-6552. In case of inclement weather, the rain date for the walk is November 24.

Saharan Africa.

Speaking recently at the First United Nations Day for Africa before 1,500 diplomats, governmental officials, corporate executives, civil rights and African American leaders, educators, students, and

people from all walks of life, Rev. Sullivan said, "a new historic partnership involving the First African-American American Summit, the United Nations through its Economic Commission for Africa, the

(continued on page 3)

# CITY PEOPLE

## Shirley Cathie awarded by HELP



EDISON — Ina Davis (l), director of Modishare Health Education Learning Programs (HELP) and Cynthia Voorhes, (r) district supervisor for HELP, present Shirley B. Cathie of Plainfield, director

emeritus of Union County College's Plainfield campus, with a plaque for her support of the program. Ms. Cathie was the keynote speaker at HELP's nursing assistant graduation ceremony.

## Justice Thurgood Marshall among NCBA award recipients

WASHINGTON, DC — Retired Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to be named to the US Supreme Court, heads a list of seven other older black Americans cited by the National Caucus and Center on Black Aging (NCBA) for their contributions to humanity.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, the first African American woman to be elected to the US Congress, served as the keynote speaker at the awards ceremony, November 15 Washington, DC.

In addition to Justice Marshall, the other awardees were:

Business Owner and Executive A.G. Gaston of Birmingham, AL; Religious and Civil Rights leader

William Holmes Borders of Atlanta, GA; Public Health/Human Services Official Dr. James R. Dumpsion of New York City; Educator and Youth Advocate Mencha Mitchell Varner of Ardmore, OK; and Black Studies Archivist Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley of Washington, DC.

The chairman of the program, the ninth Living Legacy Awards Program, is William J. Donlon, Chairman and CEO of Niagara Mohawk Power Company, Dr. Bonnie Gupton, Secretary, State and Consumer Services for California, presented the awards. Phyllis Rashad is the Executive Vice Chairperson marking her third year of involvement with the Living Legacy program.

## Joseph N'Diaye honored in Union County



ELIZABETH — Union County Freeholder Walter McLeod, (l) presented a resolution to Joseph N'Diaye (c) of Goree, Senegal, Africa, in recognition of his achievements in African history. Looking on is Plainfield Mayor Harold Mitchell.

N'Diaye has been the curator of the Museum des Esclaves (Slaves House) on the island of Goree, since its inception in 1960. It was declared an International Historic Site

in 1986 by the United Nations.

The Slavery House was the last drop for enslaved Africans on the way to Europe and America, and 15 to 20 million Africans suffered harsh treatment at the hands of slave traders, with 6 million dying before departure, according to N'Diaye.

N'Diaye, a World War II veteran, worked as a researcher at IFAN (Fundamental Institute for Black Africa) at the University of Dakar prior to being named curator.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

PATERSON — Author and social critic Norman Skinner will discuss his research on the political economy of the African American community and the potential power of black consumers in US world markets at the Paterson Public Library. For more information call 201-861-7038.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

NEWARK — The play, "In White America" will be performed on November 21 at 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Union County Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Addictions, Inc. at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. For more information call 908-233-8810.

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

WESTFIELD — Drugs and the Brain is the focus of a seminar to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Union County Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Addictions, Inc. at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. For more information call 908-233-8810.

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23

NEWARK — Saturday, Nov. 23 has been declared Sexuality Education Day by Planned Parenthood of Essex County. It will take place at UMDNJ, Room 9556, 100 Bergen Street, Newark, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information call 201-622-3900.

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

WEST WINDSOR — The Rutgers Percussion Ensemble will present a free performance and demonstration on Tuesday Nov. 26 at Mercer County Community College at 11:15 a.m. in Room 156 of the Communications Center. For more information call 609-586-4800.

BLOOMFIELD — New York artist Marc Lida will exhibit 20 watercolor and pencil drawings at the Westminister Art Gallery of Bloomfield College from Nov. 26 to Dec. 19. For more information call 201-748-9000 x298.

## People on the move...

Dr. Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, author and clinical psychologist, has begun a one-year residency as the Distinguished Scholar at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. Alan K. Martin, of Montclair, has been named director of the Mentoring and Leadership Development Program at Bloomfield College. Ronald A. LeGrand of Maryland has been named director of minority affairs and business development for Nabisco Foods. Bernie Foster was recently elected President of the West Coast Black Publishers Association. A design by Thomas Sasseville of Kinnikinnick was selected as the new logo for Runnels Specialized Hospital. Jerald Head of Tucson received the Minority Initiative Award from the American Diabetes Association. Maud Dahme is the new secretary-treasurer of the National Association of State Boards of Education. Lt. Colonel Richard Conway has been appointed senior military fellow at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies for 1991-92. The following are graduates of the nursing assistant program of Modishare Health Services, Inc.: Della Bloodworth; Priscilla Johnson; Darlene Markie; Deborah Mars; and Margarita Rodriguez of Elizabeth; Tanya Walker of Westfield; and Ruth Brown; Sharon Klap; Tammy Tucker; and Tammy Wynn, all of Plainfield. The following are on the Dean's List of the Berkeley College of Business: Fadeline Simeon of East Orange; Denise Pelfano of Jersey City; Elena Ambrosio; Maria Deregual; Michelle Beazik; Maria Fernandez; Judy McKay; Sandra Simoes; Maria Bastos; and Felicia Bailey; all of Newark; Rachel Cachoche; Mariana Mohan; Laura Pennington; Dina Saura; Irene Budy; Marsha Budy; and Angela Peck; all of Paterson; and Edward Aguilar and Laura Evanski of Jersey City.

## Wanted: Blood donors

NORTH PLAINFIELD — People of all persuasions are invited by the Watchung Presbyterian Church to donate blood during the November 20 blood drive.

From 3-8:15 p.m. donors who

are in good health, weigh at least

110 pounds, and are between the ages of 17 and 75 are asked to attend the church at 170 Watchung Avenue in North Plainfield. For more information call 755-2781.

## Jazz for Justice at Rutgers

NEWARK — The Association of Black Law Students of Rutgers Law School-Newark will be sponsoring a fundraiser for charity on Wednesday, November 20 called "Jazz for Justice."

The event will feature an evening of poetry and live jazz en-

tertainment at the Paul Robeson Center Pub at 7 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Newark Emergency Services for Families and the Essex County Family Violence Program.

For more information, call 201-648-5236.

## Coping

by Dr. Charles W. Faulker



## The murder capital

Dear Dr. Faulker:

I am a white middle-class man and I take issue with some of the statements that you so often make about the issue of racism in this country. I actually do not think that the situation is nearly as bad as you say it is. My opinion is that the blacks who are treated badly by white people (and by others) deserve to be treated badly. I am white and I think I know what I am talking about.

Mr. R., Wisconsin

Dear Dr. Faulker:

I just returned to Chicago after having spent three weeks visiting Washington, DC. On the first day of our visit all of the guests in the hotel in which I was staying were called to an early morning meeting, by representatives of the hotel, before we went sightseeing in the city. Most of those at the meeting were white, just like me, but several black hotel guests were present also.

"We were told to be extremely careful about where we went in Washington because DC was the 'Murder Capital' of the world (not just the country.) We were told that

95 percent of the crime was committed by blacks and that we should always be observant and suspicious of black people, because they could hurt us.

"We were told that most young black men (and some women) carry guns and will shoot you if you even bump into them by mistake. We were told that bums were all over downtown DC begging for money, and that some of them were emotionally sick therefore they are dangerous. The other panhandlers, we were told, were just con men who could get jobs if they really wanted to.

"This then, was our indoctrination and you can imagine how frightening it was for most of us. My wife and kids did not venture out of the hotel at night. During the day, we tried to stay close to our hotel, and visit only museums and other public places. We did ride the subway when we had a group of no fewer than ten people. Some of the people in our party were so scared that they stayed at every black person who got on the subway, whether he was well-dressed and well-behaved or not.

"Two young men in our group (Continued on Page 3)

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**SALE RATE: 8.5% APR.**  
Monthly payment on \$10,000 for 36 months, for example, would be \$333.

**Fixed rate Home-Equity Loan:**  
Up to \$100,000  
5 yrs./Standard rate: 10.5% APR.  
**SALE RATE: 8.5% APR.**  
Monthly payment on \$10,000 for 60 months, for example, would be \$220.18.

\* To take full advantage of the Sale Rates, you must agree to have your monthly payments automatically deducted from your UNB checking account. (Otherwise the rate will be 12% above the sale rate—still a greatly reduced rate, but not as good as with automatic payment deductions.) The above payment examples include single life and accident and health insurance. Other loans amount, terms and rates available. Additional income verification may be required. For a home-equity loan, approval may be subject to title search and property appraisal. Home-equity loans over \$25,000 must be secured by your primary residence. Existing UNB loans will not qualify unless an additional \$10,000 or more is borrowed.

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# Eminent black South African sculptor-painter dies

LAUREL, MD.—This past weekend, whilst I was confined by illness in Maryland, I was shocked by the death of Dumile Feni, the famous black South African sculptor, painter, and liberationist paragon, a close friend, confidant and role model. He died after a sudden heart attack in New York City.

Dumile's camaraderie with all opponents of apartheid, and his belligerent bravado against South Africa's extreme racism endeared him to concerned people worldwide. And his great art works captured and captivated humanity's attention.

The long-exiled expatriate from South Africa fled the fury of racial discrimination to find freedom to express his bitter aversion of apartheid through sculpture and painting. He was a hero of the global march on the wall for African liberation, and well deserved last Saturday's memorial to him at New York City's famous Schomburg Museum. With a scum and verve, he worked indefatigably against South African Nazism through the impact of his art. Thus, he ignited a fire that will never be quenched until apartheid is eradicated.

As a sculptor-painter, Dumile Feni employed clay, water colors, pen, brush, charcoal, and bronze to sculpt and sketch those magnificent masterpieces which he has bequeathed to mankind. His sculpting and painting vividly and graphically express his own African people's yearning for freedom from white domination and oppression. And his 1990 portrait of Nelson Mandela, soon after his release from more than 27 years' political im-

prisonment, is a meritorious masterpiece of sculpture in its own right that will inspire freedom fighters for years to come. Feni portrayed Mandela as a serious, determined and purposeful champion of his own people's liberation cause.

But Dumile Feni's greatest contribution to art and the fight against apartheid was what I chose to call the man-beast sculpture. Feni's man-beast sculpture depicts the South African black industrial laborer whose labor has built the wealth and opulence of the country, which, the white man monopolizes to his own advantage alone! Feni's man-beast portrays the black man as the white man's beaver of wood, drawer of water, and beast of burden, who makes South Africa tick, and makes him the backbone of South Africa's industrial development — a formidable factor! True, Dumile Feni's man-beast sculpture is an original creation of a great mind and soul. It portrays the country's black laborer as a creature with body of a beast of burden, with a tail and legs of an animal. It also portrays the creature with the hands, feet, head, face, penis and testicles of a human being...oh, what a graphic portrait and craftsmanship!

In his other artistic contributions Dumile Feni caricatured South Africa's discriminatory industrial system, mine gears, industrial machinery and concomitant constructions, which were all fed and operated by black labor and which render the country its immense opulence and prosperity. The black man's labor gives the white man alone — not the black laborer who produces it — the reward of the highest standard of living on earth...

Lately, a Mr. Herb Yavel of Brooklyn, NY, (an ardent friend of Feni and me) and I were inspired to find Dumile Feni commencing the sculpting of a sculpture of a young African man on horse-back. We were stunned by that sculpture's realism, impressionism and anatomical accuracy of portraiture

which was so lifelike! The maiden's figure, posture, breasts, facial expression and limbs were lifelike beyond imagination! And, since that day, at Dumile Feni's studio at Hoboken, NJ, Herb Yavel and I have talked endlessly about the magnificent portraiture of the belle, and wondered what it was meant to

portray. Its perfection surpassed perfection itself...

This son of a Zulu man and a Kholi-iboi woman was a rarity — a rarity! He confronted apartheid and dealt it a blow from which it will never recover.

Simple, affable, soft-spoken, of genial disposition and pressing a

sense of humanism, Dumile Feni was a wonderful man, I'll miss his friendship! Mankind, pardon his anger expressed in the portraiture of the naked man-beast!

Go well, Dumile Feni! Go well, whilst apartheid's violence continues. May your noble soul rest in peace...

## New Sullivan plan for Africa

(continued from page 1)

Organization of African Unity, and the African Development Bank will help insure the success of our urgent movement to create a closer relationship between Africans, African Americans and other friends of Africa."

The First UN Day for Africa was hosted by His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, Secretary General of the United Nations and co-chaired by His Excellency Antoine Blandin, director general of the United Nations. His Excellency Issa Diallo, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, and Rev. Sullivan, who also served as the initiator and presided over the extraordinary occasion.

During the African-American Summit convened by Rev. Sullivan in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire in April, 1991, the 2,500 delegates and observers concluded that the debt burden of sub-Saharan African countries was "a significant impediment to these countries becoming competitive."

Rev. Sullivan said, "It was in this context that we requested this unprecedented day at the United Nations devoted to Africa, during a recent meeting with the Secretary General of the United Nations, at which time he so graciously agreed to host it."

During the day-long session in the prestigious Trusteeship Council at the UN, Rev. Sullivan unveiled a new "Sullivan Plan" for debt relief for sub-Saharan African countries. He called upon the industrialized nations of the world to cancel immediately eighty percent of all government-to-government debt, with the remaining 20 percent continuing on the books for 20 years.

Rev. Sullivan said the interest in local currency would be used to support human resource projects to help children, the poor, and needy in the participating countries. At the end of the session, the "Sullivan Plan" was unanimously endorsed that the debt burden of sub-Saharan African countries was "a significant impediment to these countries becoming competitive."

Other participants in the First UN Day for Africa activities in-

cluded: US Senator Paul Simon; Congressmembers Mervyn Dymally and Donald Payne; US Ambassador to the UN Thomas Pickering; Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Herman Cohen; Mayor David Dinkins of New York City; Mayor W. Wilson Goode of Philadelphia; Dr. Benjamin Hooks, executive director, NAACP; John Jacob, President, National Urban League; Dr. Dorothy Height, president, National Council of Negro Women; Robert Stempel, chairman, General Motors Corporation; and Reuben Mark, chairman, Colgate-Palmolive Corporation.

Also participating were Martin Luther King, III, of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change, activist, Dick Gregory, actor Ossie Davis and his actress wife, Ruby Dee.

The international community was represented by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Director General of the United Nations, former Prime Minister of Italy,

former President of Cape Verde, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, Vice President of the African Development Bank, and dozens of high level diplomats from Washington and New York.

Rev. Sullivan also announced his "Teachers for Africa Program," which is designed to recruit and place 1,000 teachers from the United States in Africa over a four-year period to help improve the quality of education of that continent. He also announced the "Best and Brightest Program," which will provide for young African bankers to come to the United States and work in banks and other financial institutions.

As never seen before at the United Nations, the session closed with the audience standing and cheering, with handshakes of unity as Rev. Sullivan declared "to all of the world who share our mission to help Africa...let us walk together children and not get weary, and there will be a new Africa and a great new world for everyone!"

## BCC helps small and minority businesses

BERGEN — A free hands-on computer training and consultation service is now available to Bergen County's small business owners. At Bergen Community College, the Business Training and Resource Institute is a community resource which helps small and minority-owned businesses become technically confident to meet, manage, and control today's business needs with pc-based tools.

The Business Training and Resource Institute provides an environment for business owners to experiment and practice desktop publishing or dBase data management,

or to conduct business related research. The facility also contains business videotapes and technical publications, as well as economic and business reference materials.

The Institute conducts hands-on demonstration and training sessions on software for word processing, spreadsheet, or accounting. In addition, semi-annual business technology seminars highlight changing economic trends, business issues, and practical, technical applications.

To register a small business with the Institute call 201-447-7841.

## Rice fed up with tragedies

(continued from page 1)

lens are an excuse for our people to continue to steal cars and be involved with drugs and commit the kind of crimes that they are committing against innocent people.

"Unfortunately," Rice continued, "African Americans and Latinos, throughout the history of this country have always been poor and struggling people. But we've maintained strong value systems and family unity regardless of the hardships. And we made our family members accountable to the family unit and to the community in general. We shared our love with each other and our worldly goods."

"Today, elected officials, community leaders, and some families are using our hardships to find justification for the senseless crimes that juveniles commit. Crimes that could lead to their own deaths at a tender age, and to innocent people of the community."

Rice said that he was "weary" of hearing of one fatality after another caused by a juvenile driving a stolen car. He referred to the most recent incident that took place at a Sunday, when a 14-year-old killed a 20-year-old woman and critically injured another woman when

the stolen car he was driving rammed into her car.

Rice asserted that African Americans and other minorities in the city cannot just blame "the system" for everything, but must hold themselves responsible for their actions and those of the children under their care. He said, "Everyone must be held responsible for making sure that the home is doing its job, and the educational system, with the human resources it has, does its job."

"Our elected government officials and our educators must give more of themselves to the children and make sure that parents and guardians take responsibility and be made more accountable where they aren't."

We must send a message to the criminal element in our city — regardless of age, that while we may love them, and will continue to work hard to provide necessities and create good opportunities for them, the good people of our city and its leaders must collectively and up front, send a message to the criminals: be they juvenile or not, that we simply will not tolerate these senseless killings and physical injuries to our people any longer," concluded Rice.

"I think that the managers of hotels should not indoctrinate people who visit hotels. They should not instill fear of black people into their guests."

Mr. B., Chicago

## Power is preparing for a rainy day.



No matter what Mother Nature is doing outside, we're working hard to keep your lights on inside.

We're PSEG. And the more we can anticipate problems, the more we can prepare for them.

That's why we've got people who track the progress and intensity of storms, so we can meet them head on. And linemen specially trained and equipped to respond to any and all emergency situations.

Even a systems forester who's responsible for the preservation and maintenance of over one million trees along our

distribution lines. That's because falling trees and branches are a major cause of service interruptions.

There are thousands of PSEG people working to provide you with dependable electric service.

And they're doing an outstanding job of keeping the power in your hands. Because PSEG customers have electricity 99.99% of the time.

Can we improve on that? We're determined to try. After all, the more reliable we are, the more confidence you'll have in us.

Come rain or come shine.

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**PSEG**



# OPINION

## EDITORIAL

### Unemployment and the numbers game

Isn't the unemployment rate dismal enough without some other numbers telling us it's actually worse? Well, when you factor in that some very important but not represented people, you have a jobs rate that is not just sad, it's scary.

Part-time workers who would rather have full-time jobs but are taking what they can get are not counted and they number 6.4 million people. The discouraged workers who are just fed up and don't actively pursue employment are also not counted and they number 1.1 million people. Also, youth are not counted and the unemployment rate among teens is 18 percent. The overall jobs rate is 6.7 percent. This means that teen unemployment is more than twice the national rate. And when you hear the rate among blacks is 38 percent, it makes you really want to get out the hankies.

These numbers also do not recognize jobs lost to attrition where it is highly unlikely these positions will ever be re-instated or the jobs lost when people are "laid off" never to return to their position again.

To put it bluntly, we have a national crisis here that the Labor Department fails to represent. Our President has the nerve to say that the recession is over but it's not his problem. Is it? He has a job that pays over a quarter of a million dollars. That's a heckuva lot more than those people waiting on the unemployment line get. That is, if their benefits haven't run out yet.

Those of us who have jobs are oblivious to this crisis. Even if we are not making much money, we're just so plumb happy to be working that we tend to forget about those who are not. They say the economy is making a comeback. You try telling that to the 15.9 million plus Americans that have lost their jobs, or just won't make the effort to look anymore.



by Connie Woodruff

In this period between the November 5 election and January when the newly elected NJ Legislature convenes, elected officials and the people who put them into office have a lot to think about.

Governor Florio knows full well he must rethink gubernatorial strategy in dealing with a legislature that has the potential of overriding any veto he may feel compelled to exercise and the Republican majority Assembly and Senate is mandated to deal with New Jersey's overwhelming fiscal and social problems growing bigger by the day.

One thing is for sure. It's that the elected office is no longer fun and games. Politicians are finally convinced the people are mad and aren't going to take it anymore.

It's recession time for the rich and depression time for the poor and things may get worse before they get better. This is not gloom and

doom talk for the sake of being bitchy. It's a fact. The homeless are in the suburbs as well as the cities. Ph.D.s are collecting unemployment checks with the unskilled and unwashed, and former corporate managers are applying for management jobs at fast food places like McDonald's and Wendy's.

The gravy trains from Washington and Trenton that brought money and jobs and myriad social programs to cities like Newark, Elizabeth, Camden, and Jersey City, are screaming to a halt and may be temporarily derailed when a Democratic governor and a Republican dominated legislature collide come January.

Governor Florio is sympathetic to the plight of urban decay whether it's physical or psychological. There are no signs his enthusiasm for housing, education, employment, and crime is diminishing but he needs legislative cooperation to guide the ship of state to safe moorings.

If Newark is a barometer for the

state, we're all in for big trouble. The city is not alone in facing more budget cuts that will mean eliminating programs in day care, the homeless, soup kitchens that feed the hungry, and schools that serve our children.

The continuing downward economic spiral is a national disgrace and a national nightmare that is mind-boggling to Americans who have not experienced its likes since the 1930s depression years.

Not too long ago, New Jersey was touted as the "Silicon Valley of the East" and hundred of thousands of our children flocked to schools for computer training in preparation for the new job technologies. But the windfall of jobs predicted to proliferate in the mid-1990s failed to materialize.

Meantime, with some politicians, especially those in urban areas, it's business as usual. They continue to collect the "perks" that go with the office: government issued cars; free meals; chauffeurs;

free trips; fund-raising breakfasts; luncheons; cocktail parties and dinners; offices and staff and captive audiences to listen to their rhetoric.

Officers have finally declared war on incumbent politicians, venting their anger on Democrats and Republicans alike. And since this anger is likely to last until next year's presidential election, President Bush is very vulnerable because his domestic policy is such a disaster.

However, the ordinary voter whose only agenda is affordable living in his own community, only thinks about the doings in Washington abstractly. He's more concerned about the future in his own enclave in suburban Essex County of urban Camden.

This attention is more focused on local politicians who are distressed because they insist on continuing to enjoy the good life at taxpayer's expense.

For fast foodies, the men and women we elect to office are the brightest and best in our respective communities. They just act like dummies when they come to our neighborhoods or travel out of state and out of the country with a full fledged entourage of bodyguards, secretaries, and political cronies.

And they are stupid if they don't think people will resent catching a greasy hand in the political cookie jar or receiving the unwanted gift of a pink slip.

That also goes for government workers who fail to give a full day's work for a full day's pay and the "no shows" who may turn up at the office and hour a day or once a week or only to pick up their pay check twice a month.

In Newark Council President Donald Tucker is attempting to initiate an equitable checks and balance system.

(continued on page 10)



by Denise Goodwin-Hockaday

DANBURY, CT — Believe it or not, there are many good jobs available in this country, right now... but employers can't find people with the skills to fill them! Executives and professionals in all fields can't find enough secretaries, hospital aides, clerical workers, technicians, and other health professionals, airlines are searching for mechanics and even phone companies do not have enough qualified applicants for positions as operators. In New York City, for example, well paying jobs for technicians who have good math and science skills go begging. But when the city had 20,000 openings for low paid, unskilled trash collectors 100,000 applicants showed up.

In the nineties, employers need workers who can read, write, articulate, problem solve, and possess a strong work ethic. The number of unskilled job opportunities requiring more brain than brawn will decline.

Why do we have so many unemployed if there are so many jobs available? Because there are up to 30 million American adults who are, for all practical purposes, functionally illiterate. Each year we have more than one million school drop-

outs adding to the problem and a disproportionate percentage of these are African Americans and other minorities. For those who can't even fill out job applications, prospects for employment are indeed bleak. Each one of us is affected when a potential worker is not contributing to the economy through the purchase of goods and services and the payment of taxes.

Literacy begins in the classroom. If America is to compete successfully, it must develop and support an education system that enables African Americans, and others, to become skilled, productive workers.

Federal funds only reach 40 percent of the children who require remedial reading, writing, and math programs. That's not good enough. The nation's goal should be to reach 100 percent of the first graders who need help before they fall behind to the point of no return.

"Dropout" prevention programs should be utilized to keep youngsters in school...or to bring them back if they leave without a diploma.

Mental health counseling, drug treatment, teen pregnancy avoidance programs, and other social services should be provided within the school environment if we want these youngsters to finish their education.

### Quote of the Week

"Our elected government officials and our educators must give more of themselves to the children, and make sure that parents and guardians take responsibility and be made more accountable where they aren't..."

Newark Councilman Ronald Rice on tragedies caused by drivers of stolen vehicles.  
Newark, N.J.

## Can We Compete?

These programs will help out future work force, but what about our current one?

Workplace literacy—Most jobs require a minimum of a 12th grade reading level and two-thirds of American workers read below ninth grade levels. If America is to compete, adult education must become a national priority since literacy classes are diminishing but more important, a commitment from our own communities. If you have children, turn off the television and get

unemployment recipients, rather than emphasizing low skilled, low motivation jobs.

Provide tax breaks to companies that hire illiterate or unskilled workers and provide remedial training.

Making sure that every American can read and write will require a multi-billion dollar, long-term national commitment and more importantly, a commitment from our own communities. If you have children, turn off the television and get

them to read books, magazines, even the newspaper. If you are an adult who doesn't read well, or you know someone who fits this description, get yourself or that other person into a literacy program. If you can read this column, then go out and help a child or adult who cannot read to recognize the problem and realize his or her own potential. Yes, the government has a responsibility to solve this national crisis, but African Americans cannot wait for the government.

### Child Watch...

## Lead poisoning threatens your children

by Marian Wright Edelman

The four-year-old black child in a red dress looks very fragile, lying motionless in the hospital bed with listless eyes and an IV tube in her arm. She should be at home, laughing and playing. Instead, she must spend four to six weeks in Boston City Hospital, first getting the poisonous lead out of her body, and then waiting for the lead to be removed from her inner-city home so she and her family can go back safely.

What's truly heartbreaking, however, is that her learning ability may have been permanently impaired by the lead poisoning. Some brain damage caused by lead cannot be undone.

This tragedy never should have happened. Lead poisoning is preventable, yet our nation is making little effort to protect children by cleaning up the lead in our environment. As a result, an estimated 200,000 children under six have dangerous levels of lead in their blood. Many of these children live

in the deteriorating housing of our inner-city black neighborhoods, where old lead paint is chipping and peeling. The U.S. Public Health Service says that as many as one-half of all young innercity children have worrisome, if not dangerous, blood lead levels.

Even if you don't live in the inner-city, your child is at risk. Seventy-five percent of all private housing built before 1980 has some lead paint, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Lead dust can be in the air, even when you don't see peeling paint. And lead is also found in drinking water, in the dirt where children play, in batteries, and in colored newspaper like the Sunday comics and comic books. While some children are poisoned by eating paint chips, many others are poisoned by getting invisible lead dust on their hands and putting them in their mouth, by breathing lead dust, or by eating food or drinking water with lead in it. Unborn babies can get lead poisoning in the womb if their mothers have high levels of lead in their body.

Children who get sick from lead may have headaches or stomach aches. They lose their appetite, get cranky, wake up at night, or have trouble paying attention. Because many other things can cause these problems it's impossible to tell if your child is poisoned, without testing. Have your children tested once a year for lead poisoning whether or not they are sick because lead can harm your children without making them feel ill.

Don't blame yourself if your children have more lead in their blood than is considered safe. In most cases it's impossible to know if children are coming into contact with lead. That's why it's such a disgrace that our government has not done more to protect all children from lead poisoning. The important thing is to start doing what you can to protect your children.

If you are eligible for Medicaid, make sure your children are tested through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program. The Medicaid law requires the EPSDT program to test children for lead. If you

aren't eligible for Medicaid, call your local health department about testing, or ask the doctor who regularly sees your child. The test shows whether a child needs special treatment to remove the lead.

If the test shows that any of your children have too much lead in their blood, it's important to find the source of the lead and get rid of it. But don't try to remove lead paint yourself. That must be done by experts. If you live in a public housing project or in Section 8 housing, HUD must find and remove the lead paint in your home. Call the nearest HUD office. Your local health department also may give you information on what to do to get your home tested and cleaned up. Your local Lead Services office, Head Start program or your church may be able to help. In addition, there are things you can do every day to protect you and your children from lead poisoning. I'll give you that list in my next column.

Marian Wright Edelman is president of the Children's Defense Fund, a national voice for children.

## CITY NEWS

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# #1

## African-American Newspaper in Metropolitan Newark

## City News

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# YOUTH/EDUCATION/SUCCESS

## CAN'T TOUCH THIS Big Daddy Kane: Tales from the dark side

by Terry Benjamin

It's still hard being the Kane but with his fourth album, "Prince of Darkness," rapper Big Daddy Kane (Antonio Hardy) may at last get the accolades his clever word play and musical production skills deserve.

No rapper can exist without a big ego and Kane is extra large and in charge in "Ooh, Aah, Nah-Nah-Nah" where he raps:

*Inquiring minds want to know did the champ retire  
So here I am boom! like an amplifier  
I clear my throat then I float like a boat  
Note for note what I wrote  
You can't quote or even choke  
Raps are too heavy, sharp like a machete  
Pass the microphone 'cause Kane is ready.*

One of the best known of the ego rappers, Kane offers cutting lines on "Float (I'm knockin' imitations out o' the box)" you couldn't copy Kane if your name was Xerox" and "Gitt Bizzy" ("Give me a James Brown, Funkadelic, or Prince beat/Ain't watch me turn the microphone to minus master"). Giving attention to the dance floor, Kane serves up "Groove with it," "Get Down," and "Raw '91."

But the real heart and funky soul of this collection can be found

in Kane's ruminations on the problems of a dark-skinned entertainer. Kane utters in a new era on the title track "Prince of Darkness" when he raps: "To be blunt an' lay my cards on the table/You'll be gone with the wind messin' with Dark/Gable/In comes the era of the chocolate types/rapper your Bobby Brown, Aaron Hall

This troubled man talks about the rumor about his having AIDS, the married women who stalk him and the "right woman" who is so hard to find. According to Kane: "Ya see, it's hard to make a woman your wife/When ya humpin' married women most of your life/But now I couldn't find the right girl to

Down." Singer Alyson Williams handles the chorus on "I'm not Ashamed" and Mister Cee, Kane's DJ, makes his rapping debut on "DJ's Get No Credit." A real treat is "Brother Brother" that has Kane trading rhymes with Little Daddy Shane. A background vocal group including Larry Williams (also heard on "TLC," "Groove with it," "Troubled Man"), Brett Lover, William Grey, and Al B. Sure! is featured on "The Lover in You" as Kane gives a word to the brothers: Make her feel like the most For example: Forget Goodfellas 'n' take her to see Ghost Wine on' dine under candle light Make the move right tonight when the stars are bright.

### Death Sentence Big Daddy Kane

of Wesley Snipes." And although Kane has had some success, there is still something missing as he relates on "Troubled Man": Time's are hard, word to God, recession, depression, the whole nine yards That ain't makes a brother wanna break But being an entertainer puts the icing on the cake Kane I remember when I looked up to Kurtis B.I.O.B. An' said that's where I gotta go So here I am paid in the rap trade Still gettin' played for my darker shade.

fit me/Not even if he walked up to my face" an' bite." Kane's laments show a vulnerable side of this rap star that gives this LP autobiographical overtones that display the artistry of rap poetry. These tales from the dark side are poetic gold. Another side of Kane is reflected in the guest artists featured on this album. This is an artist that doesn't mind sharing the wealth. Q-Tip from A Tribe Called Quest and Busta Rhymes from Leaders of the New School can be heard on "Come on

After four albums — "Long Live the Kane" (1988), "It's a Big Daddy Thing" (1989), "Taste of Chocolate" (1990), and "Prince of Darkness" (1991) — Big Daddy Kane has done more than hold his own. Kane's love of language, fancy dancin', and trendsetting fashion sense has made this Daddy at home on top of the pile. As he explains it on "Death Sentence" Kane is: One hope that don't have to sound proper My broken English you can still distinguish An' I don't have no image or no gimmick An' I don't have no bounds or no limits.

## EO Mayor Cooper with the kids and on the tube

EASTORANGE — How did you become Mayor? Have you been on television? Do you make movies? Did you always want to be Mayor?

These are just some of the questions asked Mayor Cardell Cooper by over 50 fifth grade students from Elmwood School who recently toured City Hall.

The students, members of Mrs. Hattie Cooper, Ms. Kenneth Bailey, and Mr. Axel Colston's fifth grade classes, met with representatives from the Mayor's staff and also had a very candid conversation with him.

The students were invited to City Hall as part of an ongoing program initiated by the Mayor to expose young people to city government and City Hall.

Mayor Cooper said, "Many of our young people (and their parents) are not exposed to City Hall or city government in any way. We want our youth to feel comfortable about visiting 'their' City Hall to explore the opportunities and people who help to make East Orange a nice place to live."

The Mayor encouraged all students to stand tall, be proud of them-

selves and the school they represent, and to respect their elders.

When asked by one student if he always wanted to be the Mayor, Cooper responded, "I always wanted to be something to help people: a doctor, a policeman, a fireman, a lawyer, or maybe even a school teacher. I wanted to make a difference — to bring about change."

He may get his chance even more so with his new cable television show entitled, "Focus East Orange." The show features a new format and look that Mayor Cooper says, "is designed to provide more insight and citizen participation into what is happening in our city."

The show's format is divided into three segments, "Focus Point," "Focus Youth," and "Focus Community," where the Mayor leads discussions on youth, municipal concerns, and even reacts and responds to letters received from viewers. Mayor Cooper's new show premiered November 4, at 5:30 p.m. on Channel 3.

## International cuisine a la Paterson

PATERSON — The Paterson NAACP Youth Council and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority are presenting their Annual International Dinner Sunday, November 24 from 1 to 5

located at 575 E. 18th Street.

People are recommended to bring their appetites to sample Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Indian, Mexican, and African American foods.

# Peer leadership, Passaic style

PASSAIC — "Peer leadership has made me more of an open-minded person. I have learned to work hard and fight for what I believe in," said Chad Leverett, senior peer leader at Passaic High School.

"Peer pressure is one of the hardest things a person has to encounter while growing up. Teens must fight the pressure because it can either make or break a young person's life today. Peer groups help freshmen understand the pressure and figure out ways to deal with it."

In addition to the leadership program, Chad plays football, is president of the African American Club, and attended Boys' State last summer. Knowing the reward for hard work motivates Chad. He hopes to someday become a manager of a professional sports franchise.

### Life is what you make it

"Life is what you make it," remarked Alicia Nicole Mack, also a senior peer leader. "With the freshmen in Peer Group, I try to emphasize the importance of success in life without resorting to the negative forces in our society. I try not to let anything get in the way of my goals and feel that I am a trustworthy, loyal individual who others can confide in."

Peer leadership has increased Alicia's self confidence, responsibility, and understanding of herself and others. Stressing the importance of being your own person, Alicia feels that "it may be difficult being your own person, but the end results are worth it."

As co-editor of the school newspaper "The Hilltop Star," Alicia enjoys writing articles, poems, and short stories. She attended the 13th annual Hugh N. Boyd Minorities Workshop at Rider College last summer and also won the African American

how to get along in this world. Besides her involvement in Peer Leadership, Alicia is involved in TIGS (Teen Institute of the Garden State), African American Club, PASS Plan and her church choir.

### Inner strengths and talents

**YES** IT'S TOO LEGIT TO QUIT!

Other Passaic High senior peer leaders are: Juan Aponte; Rochelle Delon; Lizbeth Castore; Donabell Delon; Michael Diamond; Andrea

Flynn; Shanti Jefferson; Virginia Lorenzovitz; Marissa Maness; Isandra Matta; Shefali Patel; Anthony Jones; John Santam; Maribel

Santiago; Niraj Shah; Kiomara Solano; and John Veltton. Barbara Wittenberg and Gene Simakowicz are advisors to the group.

Chad Leverett

Now in his sixth year in Passaic, the leadership program assists incoming freshmen with a variety of adjustments at the high school level.

Goals for seniors include enhancing and honing leadership skills, understanding stages of a group's development, building self confidence and esteem, acceptance of difference, and a greater sense of responsibility to one's self and the community. Freshmen in the program strive for improvement with their communication skills, building self-confidence, greater acceptance of and respect for difference, and improving problem solving abilities.

Parental involvement is also of extreme importance in the program. Three years ago the Passaic Peer Program created a Parent Involvement Corps made up of concerned parents who represent the ethnic, racial, and linguistic diversity of the school's population. Goals for the parents are to improve family relationships and communication, encourage parental involvement in the school, and appreciate difference within the group. Because of the success of the Parent Involvement Corps, the Dodge Foundation has funded Parent Involvement Corps in six other Peer Program schools in the state. The Passaic High Peer Leadership Program is funded by Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc. and the Passaic Board of Education.

### Aggressive, amiable, and ambitious

Aggressive, amiable, and ambitious are only three adjectives that best describe these teen peer leaders. Chad Leverett, who was recently crowned the first Homecoming King at Passaic High, believes that the total support of his parents keeps him going. Overall, he enjoys school but feels that more history courses of various cultures should be included in the urban curriculum today.

Vernard Ervin

can Club essay contest.

"I hope to someday write books in my spare time. I also hope to become a good wife and mother and be a positive role model for the younger generation. The necessity of a stable family environment is very important in today's society. The family environment is the basis of the child's development," Alicia said.

Alicia believes that education is vital to an individual's well being, but that it goes beyond books. She stresses the importance of knowing

Alicia Nicole Mack

"Peer leadership has brought out my inner strengths and talents and has allowed me to use them to the fullest. It has unleashed unique qualities and characteristics that help to make me a leader. The program has enhanced my ability to handle constructive criticism and has helped to raise my tolerance level," commented Vernard Ervin, Passaic peer leader. "As a role model, I am always willing to sit, listen, and discuss conflicts and joys with my peers. They know if they need someone to lean on, just lean on me."

Vernard stresses the importance of being persistent and believing in oneself. His will to succeed is passed down to him from his hard-working, loving mother. "From my mom's struggles and disappointments in life, I have developed the stamina to strive for success, to make a difference," he said. Vernard aspires to someday become a civil

rights lawyer or a federal agent.

Along with Peer Leadership Vernard is an active participant in the American Ethics Seminar, a one credit course which emphasizes moral thinking in ethical dilemmas

Other high school activities include TIGS, Pass Plan, and spring and winter track.

"Peer pressure is subconscious and it is here to stay. It is in the mind. It becomes conscious when you're caught making costly decisions. There is no getting rid of peer pressure. You just simply have to rely on your inner strength and hold on to your conviction. Overlook peer pressure, and it will flee," Vernard concluded.

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## RELIGIOUS CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**NEWARK**—The Metropolitan Episcopal Ministry is sponsoring a Prayer Service from 6-8:30 p.m. It is being hosted by the Good Neighbor Baptist Church, 100 Chatterbox Ave., Newark. For more information call 201-481-6650.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

**PLAINFIELD**—The Emergency Outreach Ministries will meet to establish a plan of action to address concerns and suggestions developed from the October 28th meeting. For more information call 908-756-5322.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

**SOUTH ORANGE**—Seton Hall Center for Public Service plans Fall course on non-denominational religious organization management. For further information call (201) 761-4510.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

**PLAINFIELD**—The United Presbyterian Church is hosting its 10th Annual Christmas Store at the Plainfield/North Plainfield YWCA on Front Street. For more information call 908-756-2666.

**SOUTH PLAINFIELD**—The First Baptist Church of South Plainfield will hold its 8th annual Holiday Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The church is located at 201 Hamilton Blvd. For more information call 908-754-2386.

## New comedy, 'Lotto' opens in Brooklyn

**BROOKLYN, NY** — "Lotto — Experience the dream" by Cliff Roquemore will be presented by Marjorie Moon, producer, at the Billie Holiday Theatre, 1368 Fulton Street, in Brooklyn, for a 13-week engagement through January 26.

"Lotto" centers on the effects winning the lottery has on twelve characters in an interracial cast surrounding a black family who learn that lots of money does not necessarily solve all your problems. The comedy is a world premier.

Playwright Roquemore is also a film director and producer for Canon and other film companies, producing and directing over 50 plays. He has been associated with "Eubie" and "Bubblin' Brown Sugar" and recently with the tour of "The Gospel Train" winner of five NAACP Image Awards. He was nominated for an Emmy for "Family Reunion" and last year directed Eartha Kitt in her one-woman show. He is also directing "Lotto."

The performance schedule is Wednesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. For more information and reservations, call 718-636-0918.

## Saying YES to education

(continued from page 1)

year should spotlight education. Today, the US Department of Education, the NEA, the National PTA, the American Legion, the American Association of School Administrators, the National School Boards Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National School Public Relations Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals are all sponsors of American Education Week. The dates for 1992 are November 15-21.

## Melba Moore chairs African American Book Fair

**PRINCETON** — Melba Moore will be the Honorary Chairperson for the first New Jersey African American Children's Book Fair which will take place on Saturday, November 23rd, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate National Children's Book Week activities. The event will be held at Littlebrook School, 39 Magnolia Lane, Princeton, NJ.

For more information about the Book Fair, please call 609-924-7925 ask for Susan Cahill or Bob Ginsberg.

# Head of Military Blood Program joins Red Cross

**WASHINGTON DC, (NNPA)** — In a second major personnel move in as many weeks, Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole recently announced the selection of Col. Anthony J. Polk, architect of Operation Desert Storm's blood supply effort, as director of transformation operations at the American Red Cross in Washington, DC.

Polk, the first African American to head up the Armed Services blood program, has experience with the military blood bank stretching from the Vietnam War to the Persian Gulf War. In his position at Red Cross, he will be responsible for logistical coordination of the Red Cross' sweeping transformation over the next two years.

Polk follows in the footsteps of another noted African American, Dr. Charles Drew, a pioneer in the Red Cross blood program whose method of separating plasma from blood saved thousands of lives in World War II.

The announcement comes on the heels of Frederick W. Kyle, president of commercial operations at SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, joining the Red Cross as senior vice president of biomedical services — the top post in the Red Cross blood program.

"Col. Polk is a terrific addition to the first-rate team we're building to carry the Red Cross blood pro-

gram through transformation," Mrs. Dole said. "We're fortunate to bring in an internationally recognized expert in blood banking whose role is to ensure that hospitals have an ample supply of blood."

The transformation announced earlier this year calls for the staggered overhaul of the Red Cross' 52 blood centers on a region-by-region basis, including re-equipping the blood centers and training staff; the transfer of the majority of blood testing to new central laboratories; the design of a new national computer system to link all centers; and the expansion of customized patient services to serve local hospitals and patients.

Starting as a clinical laboratory manager at the Army hospital at Ft. Rucker, Ala., Polk, 49, has more than 26 years of military blood bank experience. He oversaw blood bank operations in the Pacific Command during the Vietnam War until being named blood bank manager in 1974 at the Army hospital in Fort Hood, TX. In 1979 he worked in Landsuhl, Germany as the Commander of the blood bank for US forces in Europe. As a special staff officer in 1983 at SHAPE headquarters in Mons, Belgium, he evaluated blood centers of the 16 NATO nations.

During Operation Desert Storm, he directed the shipment of more than 120,000 units of fresh and fro-

zen blood to troops in Saudi Arabia, Europe, and the US. He has been in his current position since 1984 where he is responsible for coordinating

worldwide military blood programs to ensure standardization of policies, procedures, and equipment. He most recently spearheaded the

multi-million dollar modernization of the Armed Forces' blood program.

## Councilwoman El-Amin and realtor John Campbell among community leaders honored

**PISCATAWAY** — Masjidullah of Plainfield spent last Saturday recognizing and awarding those who have made a difference in the area during an awards presentation in Piscataway.

Honorees included Plainfield Councilwoman Faheemah El-Amin, Juty Heru Hassan Kamau Salim, John C. Campbell, Earnest Shakir, and Mrs. Wakeelah Rahman. City News Publisher Dr. Henry Johnson served as Master of Ceremonies.

Mrs. El-Amin received the Political Achievement Award for her active participation in local politics. Besides her political career that includes stints as a Committeeperson for the Democratic Party, and Councilwoman since 1990, she is extensively involved in the community. Her input can be felt at several area organizations including the Washington Rock Girl Scouts, the National Black Police Association Spouses' Auxiliary, and several others.

Also honored with the Youth Services Award was Juty Heru Hassan Kamau Salim, probably best known as the proprietor of the Black Gold Cultural Arts Center. Salim is a Professor of African and African American History, Kemetology, and is also a poet, playwright, actor, and master martial artist. He is sought out frequently as an advisor and expert on African and African American issues and has extensively traveled the African continent as well as the Caribbean, Southern Europe, and South and Central America.

The Community Services Award was presented to Mrs. Wakeelah Rahman who uses her community service activities as a way to please Allah. She is affiliated with several area organizations like the Muslim Women's League of Plainfield, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, and many others. She is very devoted and committed to her religion

and says, "I pray that Allah will accept my service."

Earnest Shakir, honored with the Humanitarian Award, has been an active and productive member of the Muslim community since 1959. Owner of a successful business, Wiggins Auto Body Shop, Shakir is also the publisher of Mohammed Speaks newspaper as well as the Muslim Journal.

The Business Achievement Award was presented to John C. Campbell, owner and operator of John C. Campbell Realty in Plainfield for the past 20 years. A former member of the Plainfield Planning Board of Adjustment, Rotary Club, and other organizations, he even donated his entire salary during his tenure as City Councilman to a scholarship fund for Plainfield High School seniors, totaling about \$20,000.

Imam Faheem Shuaib served as guest speaker for the event of dinner, music, and recognition.



# Philip Morris Doesn't Want Kids To Smoke

One of the most trying aspects of being a parent is encouraging your child to make the right choices — not just to follow along. In today's complex society, growing up involves more pressures and choices than ever before. Studies show that young people do things because their friends do. Smoking is one of those things.

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communicating about important issues like smoking.

To continue its longstanding commitment that smoking is not for young people, the tobacco industry also has strengthened its marketing code and is supporting state legislation to make it tougher for young people to buy cigarettes. We are also working with retailers for strict compliance with state laws prohibiting sales of cigarettes to minors.

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# CITY LIFE

## Kevin Hooks makes directorial debut in Strictly Business

### BILLBOARD

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — State Theatre presents "La Traviata," by Western Opera Theater, sung in English at 8:00 p.m. For more information, call 908-246-7469.

**NEWARK** — "In White America," a student production will be presented at Mary B. Burch Theater, Essex County College, 303 University Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 22. Tickets \$10, \$5/students. For more info, call 201-677-4425 or 4426.

**NEWARK** — "Out of Line" will be featured by the Ensemble Theatre Company at Newark Symphony Hall, 1030 Broad St. thru Dec. 15. For more info, call 201-642-0133.

**TEANECK** — Rosalind Jeffries, Adjunct Professor from Jersey City State College will discuss "The Artistic Mind of African Americans: Ancient Egypt, West Africa, New Jersey," at 8 p.m. in Muscarelle Hall of Fairleigh Dickinson. Call 201-837-8003 for details.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

**PRINCETON** — "The Nutcracker" will be featured at the McCarter Theatre, 91 University Ave. For more info, call 609-983-8000.

**WOODBURGE** — The Eddie Hazel Trio (jazz vocal and instrumental) will appear in a free concert at the Barron Arts Center, 8 p.m. Reservations must be made due to limited seating. Phone 908-534-0413 for info.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Cleavon Little, jazz tenor sax, will appear at George Street Playhouse debut in Neil Simon's "I Ought to Be in Pictures" thru Dec. 22. For more info, call 908-246-7469.

**PLAINFIELD** — Metropolitan Opera Soprano and Plainfield resident Juliana Gonkels will perform at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield at 724 Park Ave., at 4 p.m. For more information call 908-754-0783.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Crossroads Theatre Company will present "Black Orpheus, A Modern Love Fantasy," adapted by Charles F. O'Connell, directed by Ricardo Khan thru Jan. 5. For more info, call 908-246-7469.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

**NEW YORK CITY** — City Center presents the "Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater" (Dance Theatre of Harlem, 20 West 56th St., New York, Judin Jambon work, set to music by Nona Hendryx, a premiere by Donald Byrd, and a revival of the Alvin Ellington classic "Pas de Duke") For more info, call 212-581-7907.

by David Thomas

HOLLYWOOD, CA—Most-televised viewers know Kevin Hooks from his work on the popular television series The White Shadow. But at 33, Kevin is already an industry veteran having acted in a host of films since his childhood including the landmark movie, Sounder. Kevin has quickly become one of the fastest rising TV/film directors on the scene today. The Warner Brothers comedy, Strictly Business, marks the latest chapter in his illustrious career.

Kevin credits his father with being a significant influence in his successes and development. "My father (actor, Robert Hooks) is mainly responsible for me being in this business today," he said. "I was nine when I first became involved in the business, and he is certainly the reason I decided that acting was something that I wanted to pursue. Growing up around him, acting felt very natural, and I felt confident that I could do it. I've been involved with film in one way or another for most of my life."

Being known primarily for his role in the White Shadow, Hooks said he does manage to keep in touch with some of his old castmates, as their careers have taken turns similar to his.

"I keep in touch with a number of the guys, but primarily with Thomas Carter because we have so much in common now in terms of the direction of both of our careers. He is directing and producing now as well. In fact, his office is not very far from mine. We see each other a lot and exchange ideas and philosophies. Another person I keep in touch with is my dear friend, Eric Kilpatrick who played Curtis Jackson on the show. He and I have been friends ever since we were kids. So, I basically keep in touch with the two of them."

He, Eric Launeville of St. Elsewhere, and Jackson all decided to take advantage of the opportunities in directing and learned it in a very unique manner.

Hooks explained that while they were doing their own shows, they

would use their days off to watch different directors work. "We'd talk with cameramen, look through the camera, and ride

the dolly as a shot was developing. We'd also see how things were put together in the editing room. So, we kind of created our own film school

in the three years that we were doing the White Shadow," Hooks said.

Hooks explained that even though he feels his craft is directing, he prefers working on feature films rather than television. He said that feature films allow him more of a chance to explore that television.

"In television, you simply don't have the time or budget to create and explore the kinds of things that I would like," he said. "TV movies are generally filmed in an average of 18-22 days which is not a lot of time. The challenges of television are interesting because you don't have the time or the advantage of using the latest technology to bring certain images to the scene. Whereas, with film there is more time and you have the opportunity to at least explore some of the newer technologies."

With his re-newfound notoriety, he says it's tough to find time for his wife and three children but they all make the effort to be together when they can.

"It's always a delicate balance in this industry between your dedi-

cation to your craft and your private life," he said.

"There's an old saying here that when you're working all the time, you complain that you don't have enough time off. On the other hand, when you do get time off, then two weeks later you're complaining that you've got to get back to work. I've been able to work out a good balance so far," he said.

He said that in a lot of instances, his family visits him on the set and he tries to do things with his children. Hooks said that his children understand what he does and realize that he cannot make it to everyone of their special events.

Following the recent release of Strictly Business, Hooks will be working this month on Passenger 57, an action adventure film starring Wesley Snipes, and in mid-92, he is scheduled to begin filming Heatwave II starring Blair Underwood and Cicely Tyson.



Kevin Hooks, (pointing) directs Halle Berry (l) and cameramen in Strictly Business.

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# CITY BUSINESS

Business Exchange...

## Supporters for success

by William Reed

### BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

**NEWARK**—The Newark Chapter of MileHigh Eagles will be hosting a seminar on Financing and Accounting at the Hilton Gateway Hotel, Raymond Blvd. from 7 to 11:30 p.m. For more information call 1-800-484-1039 (x242).

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

**WESTFIELD**—Merill Lynch will hold a free seminar on "17 Year End Tax Saving Strategies for 1991" at the Westfield office located at 165 Elm Street at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 908-789-4335.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

**TRENTON**—New Jersey Division of Trade will sponsor a trade mission to Israel thru December 6. For info, contact Andrew Levinstein at 201-648-7121.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

**UNION**—Controlling Your Costs and Other Headaches is a seminar to be discussed at Keen College from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in room 120. It will be conducted by Joseph Rosenberg, CPA. For more information call 908-827-2945.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

**NEW YORK CITY**—New York City Transit Authority presents "Reaching the Goal" from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 1-800-673-8665.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

**BLACKWOOD**—Camden County College will be hosting a seminar called Low Cost Ways to Advertise as part of its Executive Breakfast Forum from 8-10:30 a.m. For more information call 609-227-7200 x276 or 609-665-8877.

today.

As Ms. Norton and Thomas entered their advanced academic and professional lives each had a need for forums and settings with others to share experiences of the job and school and to exchange knowledge and information that would be a blueprint for them to live by. The movies, literature and plays that they experienced, the conversations that they had, and support systems that they developed, contributed to the personalities that the Judge and the Congresslady are today. Because Thomas had limited access to African Americans for his conditioning, perspectives and direction, he leaned mostly toward the "Ole Boy Network" toward one of the Boys in the Hood. While Ms. Norton, also a law school graduate, never stood on the corner cracking, she did build on a large sphere of civil rights contacts and was able to advance professionally while still reaching out to people of color. Thomas made his progress in the Ole Boy's Establishment being black, but at the expense of the works of other blacks.

Surely the Justice and the Representative have made significant advancements, and many blacks of today will have to face similar career direction decisions as did Thomas and Ms. Norton. Black Americans

who have a personal need for corporate, business or government supporters for success must start to build the positive networks that will help, and enhance, their individual and group growth. While civil rights groups and their leadership positions are on the decline, or top heavy, there are other opportunities for gaining access to black mentors in corporate America, the business community and management in the government. Progressive groups such as the Executive Leadership Council, the Business Exchange Network, the National Business League and Blacks in Government

group, can provide students and entry-level black Americans mentorships, recommendations, and assistance toward personal and collective economic empowerment.

Experiences and hard knocks have forced blacks to begin to forge management and business styles that are distinct from their white counterparts. We need a strong support system and benefits of well-connected networks to get a leg up. People like Henry Brown of Anheuser-Busch, Chuck Morrison of Coke, Warren Jackson of Circulation Experts and Kent Amos formally of Xerox are veterans of more

than 2 decades of being supporters for success among various organized groups. What blacks who are entering business, government or corporate America need to do is put their hands in the hands of those who've walked that road before. Clarence Thomas will probably be the last black Supreme Court Justice in 20 years, but there will be over 5,000 jobs in Congress and thousands in business and corporate boardrooms that blacks can help each other prepare for by supporting each other.

### UCUA program to help minorities, women,

**ELIZABETH**—Union County businesses owned by minorities and women will benefit from a new program designed to assist those groups in finding, hiring, and contracting opportunities during construction of the county's resource recovery facility.

The plan is being developed by Ogden Martin Systems, Inc., of Fairfield, builders of the planned resource recovery facility in

Rahway, in collaboration with the UCUA.

"The development of this \$155 million facility will contribute more than \$50 million to the Union County economy during its two-year construction period. This program will ensure that Minority-owned Business Enterprises and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MBE/WBE)

(continued on page 10)

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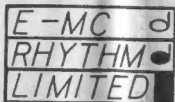
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## A View From the Side Lines After Thomas-Hill, Holyfield-Tyson should be delayed

by Fern Taylor

The timing could be worse. The long-awaited battle between undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and former champ Mike Tyson is scheduled for November 8. Despite allegations of rape and sexual misconduct levied against Tyson by a former Miss Black America.

In contrast, the Senate vote to confirm Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court was scheduled for October 7. After allegations of sexual harassment against the nominee, the confirmation was delayed until the charges were fully explored.

The opinion here is that, just as Thomas' Supreme Court appointment was delayed, Tyson-Holyfield should be delayed.

All the talk about the allegations against Mike has kind of died down. But after the overly-publicized, marathon-televised battle between Thomas and Professor Anita Hill over Hill, you can bet that the debate about whether this fight should go on or be delayed will increase. If the fight went on and Tyson is found guilty of rape, boxing will have been dealt a huge

blow. And the sad part about it is, the boxing establishment won't care, as long as the cash keeps rolling in, which it will.

People will pay big bucks to see Holyfield versus Tyson. It has all the makings of a super fight. This was versus Hill, tragically, also had all the makings of an epic battle. You had two strong, credible teams on both sides. You had senators keeping score of phone calls and meetings. You had the two combatants hurling verbal jabs, above and below the belt. You had CNN keeping a round by round score of the events.

The whole Thomas-Hill spectacle, while amusing, was a sad commentary on our judicial system, due process, and the shoddy treatment by many senators of the gravely serious charge of sexual harassment. Equally inept treatment has been given to the allegations against Tyson. Yes, Tyson is innocent until proven guilty. And, as his supporters have pointed out, Tyson is a multimillionaire which makes him a prime target for law suits and unfounded allegations.

But why wait until February to prove innocence or guilt? That seems like a long time to have some-

thing like this hanging over your head, if you're a Mike Tyson. Even more so if you've been raped.

I hoped the fight would be delayed. If it wasn't, I'd probably be in

front of the TV set watching along with millions of others. I wonder, what does that type of conduct say about us?

## Cosby celebrates

### Miss Sassy

Her legacy lives on as fans and peers jazz it up

(continued from page 1)

funny faces to get us slurs, makin' ugly faces to get nasty noises, hummin', gruntin', grindin', growlin', hicky burrr'n with his lips vibrating and on top of that, has the nerve to go out and buy a bassoon. Then he proceeds to play some Coltrane licks on it and with a cigar in his left hand."

Whether the critics will agree with Q is yet to be seen, but they do know that Cos is an endearing listener whose love for jazz has led him to not only promote the music on his NBC series, "The Cosby Show," but on a series of recordings he is

producing for the Verve/Polygram label.

The Philadelphia-born Cosby has distinguished himself as a comedian, author, television star, recording artist, commercial spokesman, and educator. He has excelled in each role and, while earning the adoration of his fans, has garnered the respect of his peers.

Known for a gently grand but improvisational humor that sheds light on the human condition, Cosby has created a familiar cast of comedy characters for television, the stage, dozens of Grammy-winning albums, and a trio of books.



## UCUA Women

(continued from page 8)  
will have every opportunity to participate in the economic boom that this project will provide for the area," said UCUA Chairman Angelo J. Bonanno.

The draft plan for the project will be submitted by Ogden Martin

to the UCUA in mid-November. Individuals who would like more information about the program may call or write the Union County Utilities Authority, 24-52 Highway Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, 908-351-8770.

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## As I see it

(continued from page 4)

ances system to cut down on such worker abuse and he's catching hell for trying to do the right thing.

The people who voted for Assemblyman Stephanie Bush in her campaign for re-election, are unhappy with the persistent rumors she prefers a judgeship to legislative office. They are unhappy still with the allegations that East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper is one of her staunch supporters for a berth on the bench. And voters wonder who the mayor and city Democratic chairman Phil Thigpen will recommend as her successor.

The clamor for appointment of a black prosecutor for Essex County is gaining momentum since the leak that a black attorney has turned down the suggestion he take the job; and that Judge Clifford Minor who was considered a frontrunner for the appointment is not acceptable to some of the decision makers.

Speaking of ugly rumors, insiders are betting Harold Molucas will not get the nod for executive director of the Newark Housing Authority but that Charles Bell, a long time employee may eventually be tapped to fill Dan Blue's big shoes as top gun.

## Muhlenberg holds family health day

PLAINFIELD — Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center will hold "Family Health Day" Saturday, November 23 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Main Lobby of the hospital on Park Avenue and Randolph Road. "Family Health Day," is being held to celebrate the completion of the Thomas S.P. Fitch, M.D., Memorial Pavilion.

The four hours of free activities on "Family Health Day" will include a blood pressure screening, "Heart Healthy" information, information for parents-to-be, and a slide demonstration on the new Child Birth Center, fingerprinting of children, refreshments, and a "Teddy Bear Clinic."

The purpose of the clinic is to familiarize children with hospital procedures and staff. Children will bring their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal to the Emergency Department where it will be registered and "treated" by a physician for its "pretend, ache, pain, injury, or illness" or given a "well-bear check-up."

In addition, the children will see a film on hospitals, hosted by television personality, Fred Rogers of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood.

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